



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL REOPEN AT NOON, DECEMBER 1, 2001**

NOAA Fisheries announces that the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters will reopen at noon, local time, on December 1, 2001, and close at noon, local time, on December 3, 2001, when the 2001 fall quota of 1.63 million pounds (1.55 million pounds fall quota plus 88,388 pounds carried over from the spring quota) is projected to be reached. The fall season was originally scheduled to be closed at noon, local time, on November 10, 2001, when NMFS projected the fall quota would be reached. However, inclement weather during the November 1-10 opening limited fishing activities for red snapper in some areas of the Gulf. Therefore, the fall quota was not reached. The fall season for red snapper began on October 1, 2001, and continues the first 10 days of each succeeding month until the landing quota is filled. The commercial fishery will remain closed until noon, local time, February 1, 2002. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper prior to noon, local time, December 3, 2001.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.